

Appl. No. : **09/848,557**
Filed : **May 3, 2001**

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-22: canceled

23. (new) A retail data processing system comprising:
- a) a first retail data processing device for carrying out a retail transaction, and arranged to process retail data and to communicate with other data processing devices in a first data format; and
 - b) a first software entity, residing within the first retail data processing device and configured to:
 - i) receive, from the first retail data processing device, retail data relating to a retail transaction with a customer carried out using the first retail data processing device;
 - ii) determine, in dependence on the received retail data, whether or not to communicate the retail data to one of a second software entity residing with a second retail data processing device and a remote server; and if so to
 - iii) translate the received retail data into a second data format, different to the first data format, thereby enabling the first retail data processing device to communicate the retail data intelligibly to said one of the second software entity and the remote server.
24. (new) The retail data processing system of claim 23, wherein the first software entity resides on a computing apparatus locally connected to the first retail data processing device.
25. (new) The retail data processing system of claim 23, wherein the first software entity receives and translates the retail data without substantially affecting the existing processing of the first device.
26. (new) The retail data processing system of claim 23, wherein the first software entity maintains remotely updateable configuration data and the determining whether to communicate is performed in dependence on the configuration data.
27. (new) The retail data processing system of claim 23, wherein the first software entity is arranged to determine, in dependence on the received retail data, whether to instruct the first device to perform a predetermined action.

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28. (new) The retail data processing system of claim 27, wherein the first software entity maintains remotely updateable configuration data and the determining whether to instruct is performed in dependence on the configuration data.

29. (new) The retail data processing system of claim 23, wherein the first software entity is arranged to receive data from said one of the second software entity and the remote server, and in response thereto, to instruct the first retail data processing device to perform a predetermined action.

30. (new) The retail data processing system of claim 23, wherein the first retail data processing device comprises an electronic point of sale terminal.

31. (new) The retail data processing system of claim 23, wherein the first retail data processing device comprises a loyalty card terminal.

32. (new) The data processing system of claim 23, wherein the first retail data processing device is an Internet payment gateway.

33. (new) A method of enhancing communication in a retail data processing system, the method comprising:

receiving, at a first software entity, from a first retail data processing device arranged to communicate with other data processing devices in a first data format, retail data relating to a retail transaction with a customer carried out using the first retail data processing device, wherein the first software entity resides within the first retail data processing device;

determining, in dependence on the received retail data, whether or not to communicate the retail data to one of a second software entity, residing with a second retail data processing device and a remote server; and if so

translating the received retail data into a second data format, different to the first data format, thereby enabling the first retail data processing device to communicate the retail data intelligibly to said one of the second software entity and the remote server.

34. (new) The method of claim 33, wherein the first software entity is arranged to reside on computing apparatus locally connected to the first retail data processing device.

35. (new) The method of claim 33, wherein the first software entity is arranged to receive and translate the retail data without substantially affecting the existing processing of the first device.

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36. (new) The method of claim 33, wherein the first software entity maintains remotely updateable configuration data and the determining whether to communicate is performed in dependence on the configuration data.

37. (new) The method of claim 33, wherein the first software entity is arranged to determine in dependence on the received retail data whether to instruct the first device to perform a predetermined action.

38. (new) The method of claim 37, wherein the first software entity maintains remotely updateable configuration data and the determining whether to instruct is performed in dependence on the configuration data.

39. (new) The method of claim 33, wherein the first software entity is arranged to receive data from said one of the second software entity and the remote server, and in response thereto, to instruct the first retail data processing device to perform a predetermined action.

40. (new) The method of claim 33, wherein the first retail data processing device comprises an electronic point of sale terminal.

41. (new) The method of claim 33, wherein the first retail data processing device comprises a loyalty card terminal.

42. (new) The method of claim 33, wherein the first retail data processing device is an Internet payment gateway.

43. (new) A computer readable medium that includes a first software entity arranged to:

i) reside with a first retail data processing device, said first device being arranged to communicate with other data processing devices in a first data format;

ii) receive from the first retail data processing device retail data relating to a retail transaction with a customer carried out using the first retail data processing device;

iii) determine in dependence on the received retail data whether or not to communicate the retail data to one of a second software entity residing with a second retail data processing device and a remote server; and if so to

iv) translate the received retail data into a second data format, different to the first data format, thereby enabling the first retail data processing device to communicate the retail data intelligibly to said one of the second software entity and the remote server.

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44. (new) The medium of claim 43, the first software entity being arranged to receive and translate the retail data without substantially affecting the existing processing of the first retail data processing device.

45. (new) The medium of claim 43, wherein the first software entity maintains remotely updateable configuration data and the determining whether to communicate is performed in dependence on the configuration data.

46. (new) The medium of claim 43, wherein the first software entity is arranged to determine in dependence on the received retail data whether to instruct the first retail data processing device to perform a predetermined action.

47. (new) The medium of claim 43, wherein the first software entity maintains remotely updateable configuration data and the determining whether to instruct is performed in dependence on the configuration data.

48. (new) The medium of claim 43, wherein the first software entity is arranged to receive data from the said one of the second software entity and the remote server, and in response thereto, to instruct the first retail data processing device to perform a predetermined action.

49. (new) A retail data processing system with enhanced communication, comprising:

means for receiving, at a first software entity, from a first retail data processing device arranged to communicate with other data processing devices in a first data format, retail data relating to a retail transaction with a customer carried out using the first retail data processing device, wherein the first software entity resides within the first retail data processing device;

means for determining, in dependence on the received retail data, whether or not to communicate the retail data to one of a second software entity, residing with a second retail data processing device and a remote server; and

means for translating the received retail data into a second data format, different to the first data format, thereby enabling the first retail data processing device to communicate the retail data intelligibly to said one of the second software entity and the remote server.